



Technical Mapping Advisory Council

Minutes

Teleconference Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Riebau, presiding, at 11:06 a.m.
Participating for all or part of the meeting were:

Members

Mark Riebau, ASCE, Chairman
Peggy Bowker, NFDA
Michael K. Buckley, FEMA
Charles Challstrom, NGS
Kari Craun, USGS
Kevin Hickey, Fannie Mae
Donald Hull, AASG
Brian Hyde, ASFPM
Wendy Lathrop, ACSM
Albert LeQuang, Freddie Mac

Others

Bill DeGroot, NAFSMA, Technical Advisor
John Gambel, FEMA
Sally Magee, FEMA
Kathy Miller, FEMA
Mary Jean Pajak, FEMA
Jay Scruggs, FEMA
Carey Wilson, private citizen
Meredith Francois, Michael Baker
Melba Gandy, Megan, Inc./HAZMED
Patty McDermott, Dewberry & Davis
Jeff Sparrow, Dewberry & Davis

Council member Michael Moye was unable to participate.

Minutes, March 2-3, 1998

The following revisions to the Minutes of the meeting of March 2-3, 1998, were proposed:

1. Last paragraph, page 4 ◊ Replace the first two sentences with the following language: "To a question about criteria for becoming a cooperating technical community, Matt Miller responded that the criteria have not yet been established and the Technical Mapping Advisory Council can help invent it."
2. Page 5, first full paragraph, first line ◊ delete the word "the" before "GPS."
3. Page 5, first paragraph under heading *Presentation by ASCM*: Delete the fourth sentence and replace with the following: "Surveyors, realtors, and appraisers, he said, are the first in

Member Organizations

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping • American Society of Civil Engineers • Association of State Floodplain Managers
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation • Federal National Mortgage Association • National Flood Determination Association • NationsBank, a regulated lender
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • U.S. Geological Survey

the line of attack when a homeowner goes into closing and is told that flood insurance must be purchased.”

4. Page 13, third line○Insert between the words, “with” and “LOMAs” the following: “delegation of authority to issue.”
5. Page 13, paragraph number 7 of the Report of the Subcommittee on Delegation of LOMA Responsibility○Revise to read as follows: “The local official issuing the LOMA must provide it to the registrar of deeds or other officer responsible for maintaining the records of real estate transactions in each county, and the official must attach the LOMA to the deed of property with the notice that the property will be ineligible for disaster assistance.”
6. Page 17, last line under the heading, *New Business*○Insert the word “available” between “copies” and “to.”

The Chairman requested members to express any disagreement with the proposed changes. Hearing none, he declared the proposed revisions accepted by the Council, and the Minutes of the meeting of March 2-3, 1998, approved upon incorporation of the proposed revisions.

Action on Modernization Plan

On initiation of the discussion of Council action on the FEMA Modernization Plan, Mike Buckley announced that he needed to depart the meeting immediately, but hoped to return before the call was completed, report on the status of the modernization plan, and participate in discussion of Council action. The Chairman concurred, and postponed the discussion.

Agenda, May 31-June 1 Meeting, Atlanta

The chairman reviewed the proposed Agenda for the Atlanta meeting as reported on page 16 of the draft Minutes of March 2-3, 1998. Brian Hyde stated that he also would like to discuss updating the Council’s goals as they affect and are affected by the FEMA Modernization Plan. Peggy Bowker added that she would prefer additional face-to-face Council discussion before taking action on the Modernization Plan, and would like to postpone that discussion until the Atlanta meeting to allow time to obtain additional background information. Hearing no disagreement, the Chairman directed that these items be added to the Agenda for the Atlanta Meeting. Wendy Lathrop added that the work done by Brian Hyde in preparation of the 1997 Annual Report is important to the discussion of goals. The Council can use this work in deciding its direction among the following options: (a) retain its own agenda and relate it back to the Modernization Plan, (b) adopt the Modernization Plan as the Council’s agenda, or (c) work in some combination of the two ways.

Peggy Bowker reported that she and Matt Miller had agreed at the Baltimore meeting to discuss priorities for the Modernization Plan by weekly telephone call. She has attempted through two e-mail messages and two phone calls to reach Matt Miller, and will make another attempt next week.

Peggy Bowker also reported on a procurement noticed in the Commerce Business Daily on April 2, and modified on April 4, stating her belief that it was the Map Service Center solicitation. Kathy Miller reported that she was unaware of it, and agreed to look into it.

Discussion resumed about the Atlanta agenda. The Chairman stated that the primary focus for the Atlanta meeting will be the Council's goals and priorities and how they mesh with the modernization program and its goals and priorities.

Peggy Bowker added that the group should come to consensus in Atlanta on the recommendations for the 1998 Report, particularly those related to hydrology. Brian Hyde, in support of the recommendation, stated that he would bring to the meeting a booklet of slides used at the hydrology presentation made in Baltimore.

The Chairman expressed a need to discuss in Atlanta the issue of future conditions hydrology, and noted that Mike Buckley had distributed information on related policy. Peggy Bowker suggested that the Council define what it means by "future conditions."¹ Brian Hyde asked whether someone would be in Atlanta to discuss the information about standards and procedures for mapping future conditions hydrology that was contained in an e-mail from Matt Miller on Thursday, April 28, 1998. The Chairman responded that perhaps Mike Grimm would be in Atlanta and, if not, could be invited to the September Council meeting in Reston.

The Council expressed consensus that a presentation on "Hydraulics 101" would be useful and provide a common base of information on which the Council could make related recommendations. Jeff Sparrow reported that Dewberry and Davis will participate in making the presentation and Meredith Francois, on behalf of Al Romano, noted that Michael Baker also would participate. Council members suggested that the presentation focus on two areas: riverine studies and coastal issues. The presentation would include information about (1) models in current use as well as the "next generation of unsteady flow models"; (2) information on subjects such as how bridges are modeled and the confidence levels of the models; and (3) land-locked lakes. The Chairman asked that one of the presenters discuss riverine studies, and the other coastal issues. One hour will be allowed for each. Brian Hyde suggested that presenters prepare to distribute handouts at the meeting.

The Chairman then summarized the agreements on the Atlanta agenda as follows:

¹ During this discussion, Bill DeGroot requested, and Melba Gandy agreed to send to him, the material distributed to Council members from Mike Buckley on April 26.

Proposed Agenda for May 31-June 1, Atlanta, GA

Sunday, May 31

1. Council Activities
 - a. Determine how the Council will address priorities
 - b. Include the following in the discussion: (1) modernization plan objectives (including a status report from FEMA); (2) FEMA report on actions taken to address previous Council recommendations; (3) Council goals (including work done by Brian Hyde, and a report from Peggy Bowker) and how they relate to the modernization program; and (4) issues identified.
2. Develop the format and outline for the 1998 Annual Report.
3. Report on and discussion of elevation certificate.
4. Discuss LOMA recommendations made at the Baltimore meeting.

Monday Afternoon, June 1

5. Discuss hydraulics, relationship of hydrology to hydraulics; include the Flood Insurance Producers National Committee (FIPNC) and Flood Insurance Servicing Companies of America Association (FISCAA).
6. Present future conditions hydrology, riverine and coastal (Dewberry & Davis and Michael Baker).
7. Decide whether to refine recommendations on base maps and include

Other Business

AR Zones

Kathy Miller reported that she and Jay Scruggs were participating in the Conference call because of a question about the AR-zone map status. As of today, 14 maps have been received and sent to the printer. The 14 maps are expected back by May 15 and will be shipped the next day. Three more have not been received from the TECs. In response to a request for definition of an AR Zone, Meredith Francois stated that it is a special flood-hazard area (SFHA) protected

in some way, such as by a flood wall, that does not conform to Federal standards, and in which flood insurance is rated differently than in other SFHAs. None of these areas is outside California.

Jay Scruggs explained that the three communities whose maps have not been received still have an effective date of July 6 for distribution. An AR-Zone fact sheet will be distributed with the maps. In response to a request of the Chairman, Mr. Scruggs stated that he also will send copies of the fact sheet to members of the Council, and Meredith Francois offered to send a fuller explanation package as well. Melba Gandy was asked to send the Council's mailing list to Ms Francois. Requests of Council members for information about the fact sheet and the maps should be directed to Jay Scruggs at 1-800-358-5616, ext. 4016. The number to call to determine availability of a new panel is 1-800 427-4661, the NFIP hotline.

During discussion, it was determined that the announcement had not been coordinated with other agencies, and that information is available via the Internet at <http://www.fema.gov/libraries/lib06.htm>. Peggy Bowker asked whether it is acceptable for determination companies to use the blueline prints of the AR zones. Jay Scruggs responded that he does not recommend doing so because of possible discrepancies in effective dates and legal issues with making determinations on the basis of a future map.

Discussion ensued on how users can find out when maps are revised. (Freddie Mac policy is to update its portfolio within 120 days of a map change. Federal law requires lenders to react only to remapping after they become aware of it). Notices are published in the Federal Register, in local newspapers, and in the community map action list. The Flood Insurance Act gives the statutory language, and Al LeQuang agreed to send a copy of it to Mark Riebau and Wendy Lathrop.

Elevation Certificate

Wendy Lathrop reviewed the elevation certificate activity and schedule, and determined that the first in-house review will take place at FEMA during the first week in May, after which the draft certificate will be sent out. Wendy Lathrop agreed to send it to the Council members and surveyors around the country who will review it, and to report further in Atlanta. The Chairman directed that this item be included in the Atlanta meeting agenda.

Map Service Center RFP

Kathy Miller reported further on the Map Service Center RFP, after having talked to the applicable contract officer, Chandra Lewis, since the previous discussion of the RFP. The RFP is expected to be issued the week of April 27, 1998. In the meantime, questions can be addressed to the contract officer so as not to violate the integrity of the contracting process. Ms Miller also reported that very few comments were received on the draft RFP, they were "minimal," and were addressed. The RFP issued on April 2 was, in fact, for the FEMA Publications Warehouse rather than the Map Service Center. Kathy Miller agreed to send the solicitation, when issued, to Melba Gandy, who will forward to the members of the Council.

Request Regarding Atlanta Schedule

Mary Jean Pajak, on behalf of Matt Miller (who was unable to participate in the conference call), requested that the discussion about the modernization program be moved from Sunday to Monday in Atlanta. Matt would like to participate in the discussion, but will not be able to attend the meeting until late in the day on Sunday. After discussion, the apparent consensus of the Council was that the subject was so important to the Council that adequate time to address it must be ensured, and that sufficient time may not be available if the discussion begins on Monday. FEMA also will be well represented by Mike Buckley and Mary Jean Pajak, who will be able to speak for Matt Miller. When Mr. Miller arrives, he can be briefed and raise any questions.

Status of the Modernization Plan

Brian Hyde, noting that Mike Buckley had hoped to return before the close of the conference call to report on the status of the modernization plan, suggested that the status be reported by mail. John Gambel added that FEMA is in the process of finalizing the modernization objectives for this year and next and will meet next week. He suggested providing the update afterward when more information will be available, and agreed to relay the request for the update to Mike Buckley and Matt Miller.

Meeting Handouts

Don Hull requested that handouts from meetings be attached to the minutes of the meeting when they are sent to a Council member who had not been present. The Chairman directed that this be done, and requested that Melba Gandy send copies of the Baltimore meeting handouts to Don Hull.

Chippewa County

The Chairman requested that a copy of old and new Chippewa County FIRMs be brought to Atlanta to demonstrate how maps can change from one printing to the next.

Miscellaneous

- Melba Gandy will resend Atlanta hotel information;
- Bill DeGroot reported that NAFSMA endorsed the map modernization program by resolution; and
- Kevin Hickey has not received his letter of appointment to the Council from FEMA. Mary Jean Pajak agreed to look into this and resolve the problem.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[original signed]

Mark Riebau
Chairman